



SIR BRANCH 161 NEWS

Celebrating our 29th year! *November, 2020*

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the Lives of Our Members Through Fun Activities and Events—While Making Friends For Life

Roy Bristow, Big Sir

My fellow Sirs, the COVID-19 continues to have an impact on our day-to-day lives. While we seem to be moving in a positive direction, many of our practices and activities are not without some restrictions. Your BEC (Branch Executive Committee) continues to hold monthly meetings discussing the business of Branch 161. Per required social distancing practices, we meet via video conferencing. Our primary concern for the general membership often centers around “Staying Connected” as an organization during a time when our scheduled monthly luncheons and many group activities are on hold. So we continue to reach out to you each Monday with a few thoughts of encouragement known as “Big Sir Roy’s Weekly Message”. I hope you find them of interest to you. Further, our BEC is still contacting each and every Branch 161 member to remind you that you are in our hearts and prayers during these difficult times. So please look for a call from us in November. Continue to be Safe and Healthy.



In this issue

- Big Sir message; Update your information
- Little Sir report; SIR Cyclers; Bowling
- Membership; Activities; In Memoriam
- Golf news
- 2021 Membership Dues
- Branch 161 Activities & Events summary
- Policy and responsibility clauses

Annual Dues

As a new year approaches, annual membership dues are being collected for 2021. We have initiated a new collection process using the U. S. Postal Service for your convenience. A simple “Check-by-Mail” will bring you current for the upcoming year. Please review Treasurer Jerry Wiebe’s request on page 5 of this newsletter issue for details. Or call Jerry @ (916) 206-9221

Next Branch 161 luncheon meeting: TBA

Please Update Your Personal Information

We will shortly be putting together the 2021 Branch 161 Handbook. If you have recently changed your email, phone number, or street address, please let us know so we can update our roster (included in the Handbook).

You can email me at webmaster@sir161.org to let me know of changes.

A few members have included changes on their annual dues form sent to Jerry Wiebe (see page 5), and that's OK too.

The important thing is to send us your updates so we can make the necessary changes.

Thanks to the members who have already let us know about their updates.

Tom Jones

Little Sir, Rick Harris

Upcoming Luncheons:

At the deadline for submission of this report, I don't have a plan to announce. However, there has been some communication with the country club about restarting luncheon meetings, and we have a meeting set up with Mark Tissot and staff for next week to discuss details. Hopefully there will be some good news to share with you soon! Please do what you can individually to keep in touch with your fellow Sirs for the social value, but also in case anyone is in need.

Please stay safe and healthy!

When I looked into famous people born in November, I was surprised by the large number...for No-



vember, a few notables from history are Winston Churchill, Grace Kelly, Jimi Hendrix, Martin Luther, Rodney Dangerfield, Joe DiMaggio, Billy Graham, and Walter Cronkite.

Unfortunately, on the infamous side, we have both Charles Manson and Ted Bundy. I guess bad people have to be born sometime!

I know that the Sirs listed here are more like the famous examples than the infamous ones, and I hope you all enjoy your special day. Hopefully I didn't miss anyone!

November birthdays

Frank Cramer, Ken Graunstadt,
Chuck Niessen, Ashwani Rana,
Walter Robertson, Andrew Zwemer

SIR Cyclers - Jerry Wiebe

The SIR Cyclers continued their scheduled rides through October, including a challenging ride into the Livermore Valley where they peddled up Mines Road to the Lake



Del Valle entrance, about an 860-foot climb from Robertson Park. It was a real test of everyone's stamina. The ride was inspirational, and the Cyclers are looking forward to again master that achievement. Of course, it also helped that the ride back

down the mountain was absolutely thrilling! Looking ahead we plan to add more travels to our surrounding areas and more fun with our experiences. The Cyclers are a hardy group who enjoy each other's company while venturing together along trails and destinations.

Our goal is to stay healthy and active as best as personal conditions allow, yet remain safe and cognizant of the weather and other conditions as we ride.

If you would like to join in on the fun, contact Jerry with any questions you may have, then get that bicycle you have hanging on the wall of your garage down, and come on along.

SIR Bowling news, John Fry

Even though there is not a firm starting date for league play, Harvest Park Bowl has set up a series of meetings for league bowlers.

The meeting for our SIR Branch 161 is set for



10/26 @ 11am. The outcome of the meeting will be communicated to members via email.

If you bowled with the Monday SIR league last year or would like to join the current league be sure to let Harvest Park know.

Membership, Will Myers

So far this year, we have added 22 new members and lost 12. This is good considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on organizations which involves large group gatherings for various activities. Remember, however, that you can still sponsor new members even though we do not have our normal luncheon meetings. Simply have your prospective candidate complete our Membership Application and send it to our Membership Chairman after you sign it.



Unfortunately we had no new member additions in October and lost three members. Bob Leete, a SIR Branch 161 member for almost 2 years, has moved to Texas to be with relatives. A recent member, Dave Goplen, who transferred from the former Brentwood Sir Branch 108 last November, passed away in September at the age of 90. He was a SIR member at three different Branches for a total of 32 years, a Big Sir for 4 years and was granted the Honorary Life Member (HLM) award in 2012. Bob White, another 90 year old and Discovery Bay SIR member for over 12 years, passed away in October. With their loss, our SIR Branch 161 October membership has dropped to 171.

SIR Membership Requirements

Membership in Sons In Retirement is open to men regardless of age, race, color or religion. See the last page of this newsletter for more information.

Activities, Dick Donald—925-513-2849

As most of you are aware, most activities have been postponed indefinitely because of the shelter-in-place ruling. In particular, this affects wine tasting and the Monday poker game. The plan now is to wait until the ban is lifted, at which time emails will be sent out notifying participants for each activity on resumption plans. Meanwhile, stay healthy!



Bocce Ball - Alan Jarvie - 408-219-8240

We are still working toward a bocce re-start; as the DBCC continues to re-open their activities, we're looking forward to renewed access to the bocce courts in the very near future. Also, Campo di Bocce in Livermore is open for patio dining and outdoor bocce; both the patio and the bocce courts are shaded, and the food is terrific. Last October, we did a bocce and lunch activity there and had a great time. We'd like to do it again this Fall, please let me know if you're interested; not asking for commitments, just trying to gauge the level of interest.

In Memoriam

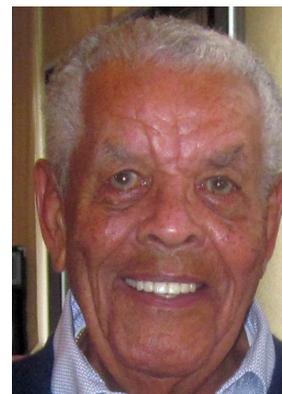
We were sad to report the passing of Bob White. He passed away peacefully at home, with his family by his side on October 2, 2020.

Bob was a member of SIR Branch 161 for eight years, and received Senior Sir Status (for achieving his 90 year milestone) in January 2020.

Bob was an outdoorsman, avid duck hunter, gourmet cook and BBQer.

He also served on the Discovery Bay Property Owners Association Board of Directors for several years.

Per Bob's wishes, donations may be made in his Memory, to Ducks Unlimited of Northern California.



Golf, Larry Mensch

We held our SIR annual net golf Championship at Paradise Valley Golf course in Fairfield on October 22, 2020.

I would like to congratulate Dale Welin as our SIR Champion for 2020. Dale gets his name on our perpetual trophy and one to keep at home.



2nd place went Dennis Pachucki who tied Dale with a one under par 71 but lost in the back nine tie breaker. Great game Dennis!

John Fry and Johnny Welton both shot 72 but John won the back nine tie breaker for 3rd place and Johnny received 4th place.

There was also a tie for 5th place between Randy Zierau and Jerry Wiebe. They both shot 75. Randy won in the tie breaker for 5th place and Jerry received 6th place.

Three players shot 76. In the back nine play off Vince Vargas took 7th place, Larry Mensch 8th place and Bill Konold 9th place.

The format of the tournament was that you could not be awarded both low gross and low net. So, Larry Mensch edged out Bill Konold in the tie breaker to receive the low gross award even though Dale scored lower.

This was a very nice course to play our Championship and we hope to do it again next year.

It was quite dramatic to see the burned hillside right up to the golf course and the houses.



Coming up next month, November 17, we will hold a two person best ball tournament in Brentwood. You can bring a guest if they have a GHIN handicap.

The handicap spread between players cannot exceed 10 strokes. Or, the higher handicap players can play down to a lower handicap so the handicap spread is no greater than 10 strokes.

Sign-up with a partner as soon as possible so I can adjust the number players with the Brentwood pro shop.

Message from Jerry Wiebe, Treasurer

SIR Branch 161 2021 Dues

By March 2021, our branch needs to collect our annual \$20 dues from each member, and we are asking you to use the U.S.P.S. for your payment. If anyone would like to save a stamp, you may drop it off at my address, below, but please call ahead to ensure I will be home. My telephone is 916 206-9221.

Please fill out the form below and include it with your check made out to SIR Branch 161. Mail them to the address below. Do not mail me cash, checks only please.

I really appreciate the Sirs who have made my job easier by already submitting their 2021 dues. Thank you, Gentlemen, and I look forward to checking off more of your names in the coming weeks!

My phone is 916 206-9221

Mail your payment to:

SIR Branch 161

Attn: Jerry Wiebe

2071 Windward Pt

Discovery Bay CA 94505-9514

Full Name: _____

Primary Phone: () _____ - _____

Mailing address: _____

E-mail: _____

Branch 161 Activities and Events (*COVID permitting*)

Bowling (*): John Fry

Sirs & Ladies Bowling league happens every Monday @ 9:30 am at Harvest Park Bowl. Our league consists of four-person teams, with approximately 20 teams, and consists of two seasons – a Winter session of 36 weeks and a Summer session of 16 weeks; both are sanctioned with the USBC. We bowl every Monday except for Holidays, and we always have room for more bowlers, seasoned bowlers as well as newcomers. During the year various SIR Branches sponsor Bowling Tournaments throughout Northern California; Check the state SIR website (<http://www.sirinc3.org/sirBowling/index.html>) for dates and details.

Golf: Larry Mensch

Golf is usually on the third Tuesday of each month from March through October, at various local courses. Also, there are a number of state-wide SIR-sponsored events during the year; Information can be found on the state SIR website, <https://www.sirinc2.org/golf2018/>.

Away Golf Tournament (*): Larry Mensch

We also have a Branch 161 Away Golf Tournament each year. It is a men's and couples, tournament held last year at the Saddle Creek Golf Resort in Copperopolis, as it is again this year, May 6th and May 7th, 2020.

Pickle Ball (*): Bob Lyman

If you have ever played a racquet sport of any kind, and have the energy to use those skills again, come check out pickleball. It's a great game for both men and women, lots of good social interaction and the fastest growing sport in the country, with the best courts in Contra Costa County right here in Discovery Bay. Play is at the Cornell Park pickleball courts. Check the monthly Activities | Pickleball article for drop-in play days/times and learning day(s).

Wine tasting (*): Dick Donald

Monthly on the 4th Thursday, at different hosts each month. Each couple brings a bottle of wine and an appetizer to share. The bottle is covered so that the label is not visible and is poured in 1 ounce 'tastes', which is graded on a scale of 1 to 5 by each participant. At the end of the evening the bottles are uncovered and the scores are totaled to determine how each wine is rated.

Bike Riding (*): Jerry Wiebe

9:00 a.m. Thursday mornings, meeting at Jerry's address, 2071 Windward Point, Discovery Bay, for a weekly 13 mile ride into Brentwood, sometimes further on other routes, and when possible, a mid way coffee shop stop for a leisurely bit of group chit-chatting.

Tennis (*): Larry Mensch

Tennis is a new activity that was added in 2019. It is a mixed co-ed group, similar to the pickle ball group. We play Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at the Discovery Bay Community Center starting at 8:00 am. Players rotate in so that everyone plays. It is an easy-going tennis group that usually ends up at Starbucks afterwards. Sometimes, we'll go out for breakfast or lunch, especially if the weather is not good.

Continued ...

Branch 161 Activities and Events (continued)

Dinner with the Ladies (*): Dennis Pachucki

SIR Dinner with the Ladies is a well attended event. We have 8 annual events at various local restaurants. Dinners are typically the last Tuesday of the month, 5:00 PM socialization and 6:00 PM dinner. All Sirs and ladies and their guests are welcome. Look for dates and locations in our Monthly newsletter.

Poker: Dick Donald

SIR Poker is a weekly, low-stakes poker game. It's played every Monday evening at 6:30 through 9:30. Games are quarter-limit dealer-choice and the dealer antes a quarter for everyone. A schedule is made with a different host and six additional players each week. Everyone plays about seven times over two and a half months.

Annual Al DiGiusto Boat Cruise and Luncheon (*): Bob Damico

In 1993, Al DiGiusto conceived the idea to plan a SIR event that would introduce some of our non-boating members and their wives to the world of boating in the Delta. Sirs with boats invited members and their wives to ride with them on a cruise to one of many Delta waterfront restaurants for lunch. Al coordinated this successful event until his passing in 2005, and the event continues in his honor. The 2020 event was cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions.

Eric Jensen Memorial Collector Car Show: Bill Konold

Our September meeting is also the SIR Collector Car Show. So polish that Collector Car of yours and bring it to the meeting. Any interesting car, old or new, is welcome. Got a new Hemi, a cool Corvette, or an old Mercury? Bring it to the September meeting and park with other SIR car enthusiast members. Tire kicking is both before and after the meeting, so arrive a little early, stay a little late, and enjoy the machinery.

Sporting Events (*):

The state SIR organization puts together special "SIR Days" for a variety of sporting events, such as A's & Giants games, Golden Gate Fields horse racing, Sacramento River Cats, AAA baseball, etc. Information on these events can be found on the state SIR website (http://www.sirinc.org/siractivities/SIR_sports.htm), and flyers are routinely included in our monthly newsletter.

Bocce Ball (*): Dick Donald

We are re-starting our weekly game, and we will once again use the Discovery Bay Country Club facilities.

Beer Tasting: Temporarily on hiatus.

(*) denotes a co-ed and/or couples activity. Details & schedules of individual activities can be found in our Branch 161 monthly newsletter. Contact information for coordinators can be found in the current Branch 161 Handbook.

Membership Requirements & Principles

(revised 2019)

Membership is open to men, regardless of age, race, color, or religion. Member volunteers and staff administer and govern all branch activities. Nominal membership dues help provide for these activities. SIR supports no outside cause or interest. We prohibit discussions of politics and religion or the selling of anything to any member. Prospective members must be sponsored by an active member.

Attendance Policy *(Revised July, 2012)*

Luncheon meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Discovery Bay Country Club, 1475 Club House Drive. (There are exceptions when we need to hold our meetings on a different Tuesday, so please check the Meetings Calendar elsewhere in this newsletter).

Social hour is at 11.00am and lunch is at noon. All members are expected to attend Luncheon meetings unless prevented by illness, absence from the Branch locale, or acting as a caregiver to a spouse or companion. If you cannot attend, you are required to notify the Attendance Chairman by the Friday prior to the luncheon meeting or you may be charged for the luncheon.

Regular members missing three consecutive meetings without notifying the Attendance Chairman, or missing more than five (5) meetings within the last 12 months for any reason (not counting May and December), will have their membership reviewed by the Branch Executive Committee (BEC), and may receive a notice from the BEC of their decision to consider terminating the absent Sir's membership.

Certification of attendance at another branch will be considered a credit to attendance.

Responsibility Clause

All tours, trips and other activities for or by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches do not assume responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participants, or in any matters pertaining to tours, trips, or other activities.

Reminders

Annual dues defray the administrative costs of running our organization. For those who have yet to pay their dues, be sure to bring \$20 cash or check (made out to SIR Branch 161) to the next meeting. Or you can mail it to our Treasurer, Jerry Wiebe.

Dress code for our meetings is "Country Club Casual", which means no jeans or denim, cutoffs or exercise shorts, shirts must have a collar, no tank tops or T-shirts, no flip-flops or thong type sandals. Please ensure that your guests are aware of this policy. Simple etiquette requires that hats be removed while in the dining room.

If you're unable to attend a meeting, our Branch is obligated to pay for lunches not served. Please email or call Bill Konold by the Friday preceding the meeting if you don't plan to attend.

Bill Konold: bkonold@comcast.net

Tel: (925) 634-2738

Your newsletter team



Tom Jones
*Editor and email
distribution*



Dennis Pachucki
*Paper copies
and USPS mailing*

View SIR Happenings, the State SIR newsletter: <http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/>